

California State Journal of Medicine.

Owned and Published Monthly by the
Medical Society of the State of California

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VOL. XIV JANUARY, 1916

No. 1

EDITORIAL NOTES

1916.

Another whole, clean, new book to write things in; and this time it has 366 pages—that gives us one day more to do something worth while. And let us see to it that we *do* do something worth while, on that extra day of this new year. The man who gets to the point where he thinks there is nothing in the way of betterment or improvement that he can put into himself or his work, ought to crawl off somewhere and die, quietly and unostentatiously, so as not to disturb the people who are trying to do things. It is a good world, though a bit troubled in spots just now, and there is such a lot to be done in it. So much to be done that one sort of loses patience with the man in the street who wants a nickle for a cup of coffee because he can't find any work! If he'd come around in the right place and time and really wanted to work, he could work himself to death. Let's all make up our minds that we are going to write some good things on these 366 pages of ours, this year, and first of all, let's write on the first page—and all the others—that we are going to be mighty careful that we do not speak uncharitably or carelessly in a slighting way, of the other fellow's work or treatment or operation or whatever it may be. You can't always tell what the other fellow had to contend with, you know. And then, every little while, just to remind yourself, write a memorandum to the effect that you can never believe a patient when he criticizes a doctor—for he does not know what the doctor was trying to do and he is not competent to express an opinion anyhow. And then, just to reduce our pride in ourselves and our own wonderful achievements, we might write another occasional memorandum to

ourselves, recalling some of our own blunders in diagnosis or treatment and some of the mistakes that we do not like to talk about in public; such things are quite wholesome, unless we are beyond all hope of redemption. Remember the old one—"Charity begins at home"—and add to it that you do not know what day you yourself may be sued for damages for alleged malpractice because some other fellow spoke thoughtlessly of your work; which, indeed, may not have been of the best, at that! No man is always doing his best work; but all men may *try* eternally to do it the best they are able; and that is probably all the good Lord would ask of any of us. And so, let it be a Happy New Year, and a prosperous New Year, and best of all, for all of us, everyone, a *better* New Year!

STATE SOCIETY—FRESNO, APRIL

18, 19, 20, 1916.

The annual meeting of the State Society this year will be a notable one, for many reasons. We had no meeting last year, owing to the fact that the American Medical Association came to San Francisco to meet with us and an overwhelming majority of our members—or, officially, delegates—expressed a desire not to have two meetings but to concentrate our energies on the A. M. A. meeting. The Society has not had a meeting away from the coast for a number of years; the last time was at Sacramento. It has not met in the San Joaquin Valley since 1898, when the historic battle of the umbrella and the pencil occurred, in Fresno. Incidentally, three of our members were arrested during that session, though it may be said in passing that none of them had committed any crime more serious than riding a bicycle on the sidewalk. In the 18 years which have passed, Fresno has grown beyond recognition; tall buildings have risen; a fine hotel has been built; miles on miles of asphalt streets and roads have been put in; highways and other roads have been made so that the whole valley has been brought into touch, one part with another, and automobiles by the thousand go their purry, gasey way or line both sides of the streets in endless rows. The Fresno Hotel is a delight. It is a concrete building with a large center court and contains sufficient rooms of suitable size to permit all the sessions of as many sections as the program committee may arrange, to be held simultaneously within its walls. It is run on the European plan and the restaurant is excellent. In December, the Secretary went to Fresno to see about the arrangements for the meeting, and found all these things; and that there was but little to arrange. The local committee, of which Dr. Aiken is chairman, has in hand a program of entertainment that will be very enjoyable to all and no one who attends this meeting will fail to go away with a pleasant memory of Fresno and the Fresnoians. It will probably be a large meeting, for all points are now easily accessible by the State highways, and very many of our members will find it a delightful trip to motor to Fresno, in April, when the country is at its best and prettiest. Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur has been elected chairman of the Program Com-